



# Miami-Dade County

## Office of Emergency Management

### CERT Newsletter



#### Name the Newsletter



Hey everyone we need a name for the Miami-Dade County CERT Program's quarterly newsletter. So put on those creative thinking caps and forward your suggestions to:

[roslyn.viterbo@miamidade.gov](mailto:roslyn.viterbo@miamidade.gov)

or write them on an 8<sup>1/2</sup> x 11 standard sheet of paper, remember to include your name and 'Name the Newsletter', and fax it to (305) 468-5401. All entries must be received by 1:00 PM on Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

Ms. Susanne Torriente, our Assistant County Manager will judge the entries and select the winning name.



#### A SPECIAL WELCOME

Roslyn Viterbo

Hello, to all of our CERT family.

As we are all aware, we are in the midst of the 2004 Hurricane Season and have, thus far, been very fortunate in not having a direct hit impact our County. Unfortunately, we cannot always count on being so lucky.

Having taken the initiative to enter the CERT program, you have proven yourself a valuable asset to your community. You have the instinct to assist others and are most likely one of the first to rush to a scene and render aid, but we must remember that **safety comes first**. It is important that as CERT members we operate under the guidelines of our 'Code of Conduct' and 'Rules and Regulations'. I have attached these for you to review.

In the issues that follow you will learn more about our programs and follow us along our journey to strengthen our communities and our families against the threat of both man-made and natural disasters. We will summarize our programs and highlight important topics or those that may be of interest to you.

However, this is your newsletter and it needs your input so please send me your ideas, or articles you would like to submit for publication. This is a good opportunity for you to highlight your or your team's involvement with CERT.

Thank you for your support and effort, we hope you enjoy your newsletter.

Warmest regards,

Roslyn Viterbo  
CERT and Citizen Corps Coordinator.

## Up Coming Events

**September is National  
Preparedness Month.**



**Check your Disaster  
Plan again and make  
sure you restock any  
disaster supplies used  
during Hurricanes  
Charley and Frances.**

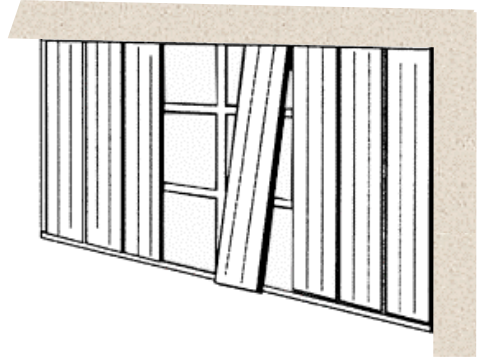
**Don't forget to send in  
your meeting notices or  
special event  
announcements so that  
we can post them in the  
newsletter**



**Our next issue is due  
out in December and  
will announce events  
and meetings through  
February 2005.**

## OUR HURRICANE SHUTTERING PROGRAM

Does anyone remember when CERTs were part of the community effort to assist with the 'Residential Shuttering Program'? This program provides qualifying low-income elderly homeowners with hurricane shutter protection for their homes. Many of the recipients of these hurricane



panels are either in failing health or their age prevents them from being able to put up their shutters when a hurricane approaches. Unfortunately, a great number of them have no family or friends to help, which is where you come in. Who better to turn to than a group of people already dedicated to disaster response, our CERTs?

Now that CERT is back up and running we need to rededicate ourselves to this effort. We are asking that you volunteer your services to assist those unable to provide for their own safety. If you are willing and able to assist with this task, please fill out the form below, highlight and print 'selected' then fax it to the attention of Cleopatra at (305) 468-5401. If you are unable to download and print only this section, please put the same information on a standard letter size sheet of paper and fax it over.

### HURRICANE SHUTTERING VOLUNTEER REGISTRY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I am willing and able to travel outside my neighborhood  
Yes [ ] No [ ]

FEMA Needs Our Help: below is an e-mail forwarded by the State Department of Emergency Management.

Dear Citizen Corps Coordinators,

There is a need for Community Relations Personnel following the aftermath of Hurricane Frances. Once it is safe to go into impacted areas, we will need this additional staff to contact disaster victims and encourage them to teleregister with FEMA and provide State Assistance contact information. Also, these personnel will be looking for unmet needs and other major issues relating to this hurricane. Activation periods will be for several days, possible up to two weeks. We are requesting that you recruit your Citizen Corps volunteers to assist the citizens of Florida. While these Community Relations personnel will be representatives of the State of Florida, these individuals will be employees of the Department of Homeland Security/ FEMA.

Citizen Corps volunteers that wish to serve MUST meet the following criteria:

- Must be a United States Citizen.
- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Must be run through a Background Check
- Must be physically able to work in a disaster area without refrigeration for medications and have the ability to work in the outdoors all day.
- Must be able to work long hours under arduous conditions (e.g., individuals may reside in an emergency worked tent city/ base camp rather than a hotel during their assignment.)
- Workers may be exposed to mold, high heat, humidity, and insects.
- Must be able to work in the vicinity of disaster debris, damaged facilities, and related adverse conditions.
- This assignment is temporary and is a paid assignment.
- Must not be self deployed. Individuals who self deploy will not be reimbursed.

Role of a Community Relations Officer:

- Establish and maintain positive working relationships with disaster affected communities and the citizens of those communities.
- Collect and disseminate information and make referrals for appropriate assistance.
- Identification of potential issues within the community and reporting to appropriate persons.
- Convey a positive image of disaster operations to government officials, community organizations, and the general public.
- Perform outreach with community leaders on available Federal Disaster Assistance

If you wish to volunteer and meet the criteria for this assignment please call me at (305) 468-5411 to register. I will be the coordinating liaison and the Point of Contact for those that wish to go. If you get my voicemail, please leave your name, phone #, and address. Volunteers will be compensated for their time and travel. Thank you.

FEMA  
NEEDS  
OUR  
HELP  
WITH  
HELPING



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MIAMI-DADE COUNTY</b> <b>COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM</b></p>
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## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

- 1. No CERT member shall authorize the use of, or use for the benefit or advantage of any person, the name, emblem, services, endorsement, or property of the Miami-Dade County CERT program except in conformance with the Miami-Dade County CERT program policy.**
- 2. No CERT member shall accept or seek on behalf of himself/herself or any other person, any financial advantage or gain as a result of their affiliation with the Miami-Dade County CERT program.**
- 3. No CERT member shall publicly or privately utilize any Miami-Dade County CERT Program affiliation in connection with the promotion of partisan politics, religious matters, or positions on any issue not in conformity with the statutes of Miami-Dade County and the policy of the Miami-Dade County CERT Program.**
- 4. No CERT Member shall disclose any confidential information that is available solely as a result of the member's affiliation with the Miami-Dade County CERT Program to any person not authorized to receive such information or use to the advantage/disadvantage of Miami-Dade County or the Miami-Dade County CERT Program any such confidential information, without written authorization from the Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management.**
- 5. No CERT Member shall knowingly take any action or make any statement intended to influence the conduct of the Miami-Dade County CERT Program in such a way as to confer any financial benefit on such person or on any corporation or entity in which the individual has a significant interest or affiliation.**
- 6. No CERT Member shall operate in any manner that is contrary to the best interests of the Miami-Dade County CERT Program.**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MIAMI-DADE COUNTY</b> <b>COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM</b></p>
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## **PROGRAM RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. **YOUR FIRST RESPONSIBILITY IS TO YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY.** When a disaster occurs, you are to first ensure your own safety and the safety of your family. Do not proceed outside until it is safe to do so.
2. **CONTACT YOUR CERT LEADER.** After ensuring that you and your family are safe contact your CERT leader for additional instructions using the policy predetermined by your team. Your CERT leader is your point of contact for the Police and Fire Departments. Do not attempt to contact the Police or Fire Department directly unless a life-threatening emergency exists.
3. **IF YOU CANNOT REACH YOUR CERT LEADER.** If you are unable to reach your CERT leader, respond to your pre-designated rally point. You are not to venture out on your own to start Search & Rescue operations.
4. **BRING ALL OF YOUR CERT GEAR.** When functioning as a member of a Miami-Dade County CERT team you should always have your issued CERT equipment with you and display your CERT identification card on the outside of your clothing.
5. **STAY WITHIN THE SCOPE OF YOUR TRAINING AND ABILITY.** You are required to remain within the scope of your training and ability. Performing tasks beyond your level of training and/or ability may result in injury to you, your team members, and the person(s) you are trying to assist.
6. **YOU ARE NOT A POLICE OFFICER OR FIRE FIGHTER.** You are an extension of the Miami-Dade County's response to a catastrophic disaster. You are to surrender control of any situation upon police and fire's arrival. Conduct the appropriate briefing when requested and continue providing critical support as requested.
7. **YOU ARE FORBIDDEN TO CARRY GUNS, KNIVES, STICKS OR OTHER WEAPONS.** When responding as a CERT, or wearing any clothing, emblem, or logo representing CERT, you are not to carry or use a weapon of any kind. Doing so will jeopardize your own safety and the continued existence of the CERT program in Miami-Dade County.